

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

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May 27, 2026

Commissioner Stanley Richards  
New York City Department of Correction Commissioner  
New York City Department of Correction  
75-20 Astoria Blvd.  
East Elmhurst, NY 11370

Dear Commissioner Richards:

The Committee on the Judiciary is conducting oversight of state and local jurisdictions that endanger American communities through their refusal to cooperate with federal immigration officials. The New York City Department of Correction's (NYCDOC) immigration-related policies prioritize criminal and illegal aliens over American citizens and threaten public safety. We write to request information about New York's sanctuary policies, including NYCDOC's lack of cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to ensure that dangerous aliens are not released onto American streets.

To protect communities from criminal aliens in law enforcement custody, ICE uses detainers, which are simple requests that a law enforcement agency "notify [ICE] as early as possible before [the agency] release[s] a removable alien" and "[h]old the alien for up to 48 hours beyond the time [the agency] would ordinarily release them so [the Department of Homeland Security] has time to assume custody in accordance with federal immigration law."<sup>1</sup> Federal law prohibits jurisdictions from restricting ICE's requests for and receipt of individuals' citizenship information.<sup>2</sup> For years, New York's sanctuary laws have prevented NYCDOC from complying with most ICE detainers.<sup>3</sup> Instead, NYCDOC may only honor an ICE detainer if it is accompanied by a judicial warrant and is for a foreign national who is "convicted of a violent or serious crime" or "is identified as a possible match in the terrorist screening database."<sup>4</sup> Mayor Zohran Mamdani has bolstered New York's protections for criminal aliens at the expense of Americans.<sup>5</sup> He has enlisted an open-borders former Biden-Harris Administration official to

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't, *Immigr. Detainers* (May 13, 2025), <https://www.ice.gov/immigration-detainers>.

<sup>2</sup> See 8 U.S.C. § 1373.

<sup>3</sup> See, e.g., NYC Administrative Code §§ 9-131, 9-205, 14-154 (prohibiting detainer compliance except with a judicial warrant for an alien who "has been convicted of a violent or serious crime" or "is identified as a possible match in the terrorist screening database").

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

<sup>5</sup> Exec. Order 13, Protecting New Yorkers from Abusive Immigr. Enf't, New York City Mayor's Off. (Feb. 6, 2026), <https://www.nyc.gov/mayors-office/news/2026/02/executive-order-13>.

harass NYCDOC about a potential lack of compliance with New York's and Mamdani's radical sanctuary agenda.<sup>6</sup>

New York's pro-illegal alien policies ensure dangerous criminals are released from New York's custody and free to reoffend. From July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2025, NYCDOC honored less than four percent of detainers that ICE lodged during that timeframe.<sup>7</sup> During the same period, NYCDOC declined to honor detainers for nearly 1,000 criminal aliens.<sup>8</sup> For years, instead of honoring ICE detainers, NYCDOC has released dangerous foreign nationals, including an illegal alien gang member arrested for assault<sup>9</sup> and an illegal alien from Ecuador charged with numerous child sex crimes.<sup>10</sup> In 2024, ICE lodged a detainer against an illegal alien with arrests for larceny, criminal trespass, robbery, criminal possession of stolen property, resisting arrest, and assault of a law enforcement officer.<sup>11</sup> Instead of honoring the ICE detainer, NYCDOC released him back into New York communities, where NYPD arrested him for grand larceny on the same day as his release.<sup>12</sup> After yet another ICE detainer, NYPD again released him from custody the next day.<sup>13</sup> More recently, NYCDOC informed ICE that it will refuse to honor a detainer for another illegal alien charged with murder and arson.<sup>14</sup> The Mexican national is "accused of setting a New York City apartment building on fire," which "killed four people and injured seven others."<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Chris Sommerfeldt, *Mamdani taps ex-Biden official to audit NYPD, other agencies for sanctuary law lapses*, POLITICO (Feb. 16, 2026, 2:00 PM), <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/02/16/mamdani-taps-ex-biden-official-to-audit-nypd-other-agencies-for-sanctuary-law-lapses-00781624>.

<sup>7</sup> Summary of Discharges of Persons in Custody with Federal Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, Fiscal Year 2023, New York City Dep't of Correction, [https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doc/downloads/pdf/Annual\\_ICE\\_Report\\_FY\\_2023.pdf](https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doc/downloads/pdf/Annual_ICE_Report_FY_2023.pdf); Summary of Discharges of Persons in Custody with Federal Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, Fiscal Year 2024, New York City Dep't of Correction, [https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doc/downloads/pdf/Annual\\_ICE\\_Report\\_FY24.pdf](https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doc/downloads/pdf/Annual_ICE_Report_FY24.pdf); Summary of Discharges of Persons in Custody with Federal Immigr. and Customs Enf't (ICE) Detainers, Fiscal Year 2025, New York City Dep't of Correction, <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/doc/downloads/pdf/Annual%20ICE%20Report%20FY25%20Final%20-%20.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> *See id.*

<sup>9</sup> Press Release, ICE arrests Salvadoran gang member wanted for murder, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (May 28, 2020), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-salvadoran-gang-member-wanted-murder>.

<https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-salvadoran-gang-member-wanted-murder>

<sup>10</sup> Press Release, ICE arrests Ecuadorian man accused of raping a minor during enforcement efforts in New York, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Jan. 31, 2020), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ice-arrests-ecuadorian-man-accused-raping-minor-during-enforcement-efforts-new-york>.

<sup>11</sup> Press Release, ERO New York City arrests Venezuelan national charged with assaulting NYPD officers, U.S. Immigr. and Customs Enf't (Apr. 25, 2024), <https://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ero-new-york-city-arrests-venezuelan-national-charged-assaulting-nypd-officers>.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> *Id.*

<sup>14</sup> Press Release, New York Sanctuary Politicians Refuse to Honor ICE Arrest Detainer Against Illegal Alien Charged with Murder and Arson, U.S. Dep't of Homeland Sec. (Apr. 16, 2026), <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2026/04/16/new-york-sanctuary-politicians-refuse-honor-ice-arrest-detainer-against-illegal>.

<sup>15</sup> Alexandra Koch, *EXCLUSIVE: NYC officials refuse ICE hold for illegal alien accused in arson that killed 4 and injured 7: DHS*, FOX NEWS (Apr. 16, 2026, 9:50 PM), <https://www.foxnews.com/us/exclusive-nyc-officials-refuse-ice-hold-illegal-alien-accused-arson-killed-4-injured-7-dhs>.

New York's sanctuary policies endanger the communities you serve. Like other sanctuary jurisdictions we have examined, the shielding of criminal aliens from immigration enforcement in New York undermines public safety and thwarts the efficient enforcement of federal law. Accordingly, to assist the Committee with its continued oversight of federal immigration policy and to inform potential legislative reforms to address sanctuary policies, we ask that you provide the following information:


1. All documents and communications referring or relating to NYCDOC's interaction with ICE for the period January 1, 2024, to the present;
2. All documents and communications referring or relating to NYCDOC's policies, practices, and procedures related to non-U.S. citizens for the period January 1, 2024, to the present;
3. The number of ICE detainees that NYCDOC has received and has declined to honor for the period January 1, 2024, to the present, including the criminal histories of the non-U.S. citizens for whom the detainees were placed;
4. All documents and communications between or among NYCDOC, the New York City Police Department, and the District Attorneys' Offices for Manhattan, the Bronx, Staten Island, Queens, and Brooklyn referring or relating to immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2024, to the present; and
5. All documents and communications between or among NYCDOC and the New York City Mayor's Office referring or relating to immigration and immigration enforcement for the period January 1, 2024, to the present.

Please provide the information requested as soon as possible but no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2026. The Committee is authorized to conduct oversight of federal immigration law pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives.<sup>16</sup> If you have any questions, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-6906. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Jim Jordan  
Chairman



Tom McClintock  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement

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<sup>16</sup> Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, R. X (2025).

Commissioner Stanley Richards

May 27, 2026

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cc: The Honorable Jamie Raskin, Ranking Member

The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Immigration  
Integrity, Security, and Enforcement